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May 11, 2004

RECEIVED

Martha E Heller  
202.719.3234  
mheller@wrf.com

MAY 11 2004

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Localism Task Force, GC Docket No. RM-10803

Dear Ms Dortch:

On behalf of Belo Corp. ("Belo"), please file the attached letters in the above-captioned proceeding. The letters, which are from Robert W. Decherd, Belo's Chairman of the Board, President, and Chief Executive Officer, to each of the FCC Commissioners, describe Belo's ongoing offering of "It's Your Time," a program providing free airtime to congressional and gubernatorial candidates.

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha E. Heller

cc: Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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# BELO

**Robert W. Decherd**  
*Chairman of the Board*  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

April 30, 2004

The Honorable Michael Copps  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Belo 2004 Election Coverage Commitment

Dear Commissioner Copps:

Belo Corp. is pleased to advise you that for the fifth consecutive election cycle we are offering free broadcast airtime to qualified Congressional and gubernatorial candidates in each of Belo's 15 television markets. Additionally, Belo's news-producing stations have each committed to provide overall election coverage for more than one hour per week for the six weeks prior to election day. Details of Belo's commitment are contained in the enclosed press release. Candidates eligible to take advantage of our free airtime offer will be separately contacted by our local station general managers.

Since Belo initiated the nation's first free airtime program in 1996, other stations have followed our lead in making similar commitments. Broadcasters have been criticized by some Washington policy-makers and advocacy groups for a lack of public interest-programming. The Federal Communications Commission is actively considering the public interest obligations associated with digital television service. Belo and other like-minded broadcasters provide their viewers and communities with significant information to make informed decisions at the polls. *We do this voluntarily without a specific federal mandate.* Furthermore, we voluntarily hold ourselves accountable to our commitment by releasing detailed information after the election about the coverage provided in each of our markets.

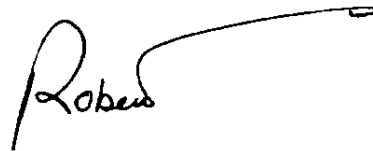
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The Honorable Michael Copps  
April 30, 2004  
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If Belo can provide further information or answer any questions at any time, I hope you will contact me at 214-977-8277 or Guy Kerr, Belo's senior vice president/Law and Government at 214-977-6692.

Thanks for your continued public service.

Sincerely,

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RWD/vm

Enclosure

# BELO

## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2004

7 A.M. CST

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**DALLAS** – Belo Corp. (NYSE: BLC), which in 1996 became the first commercial television station group to provide free airtime for congressional and gubernatorial candidates, announced that it will offer the “It’s Your Time” program for the fifth consecutive election cycle this fall.

The Company also announced increased election coverage plans, stating that Belo’s news-producing stations will televise at least one hour of political coverage each week in the six weeks prior to the general election on November 2. The Company’s expanded election coverage in 2004 will include debates, issue- and ad-watch programming, and interviews with local, state and federal candidates. In 2002, Belo stations sponsored 30 congressional and gubernatorial debates.

Candidates participating in “It’s Your Time” each receive five minutes of free airtime – four minutes to tell viewers why they should be elected and one minute to answer a question specific to the candidate’s individual race. In 2002, 104 qualified candidates for U.S. House, U.S. Senate and state gubernatorial offices participated in “It’s Your Time.” Since the program’s inception, Belo has provided free airtime to more than 400 candidates.

“Belo took this groundbreaking step eight years ago to ensure that we were doing all we could to create an informed electorate in the communities we serve. Belo’s voluntary effort achieves the goals of providing robust debate and increasing viewer knowledge without a government mandate,” said Robert W. Decherd, chairman, president and chief executive officer. “Since Belo’s introduction of this unprecedented program, other broadcast companies have joined Belo’s efforts and are providing free airtime in their respective markets.”

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**-more-**

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**April 16, 2004**

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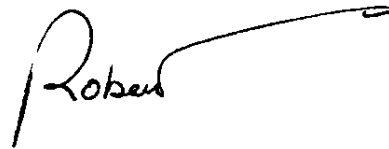
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RWD/vm

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**April 16, 2004**

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*President and Chief Executive Officer*

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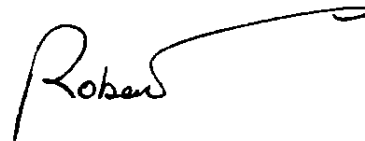
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The Honorable Kevin Martin  
April 30, 2004  
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RWD/vm

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April 16, 2004

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**April 16, 2004**

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April 30, 2004

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445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
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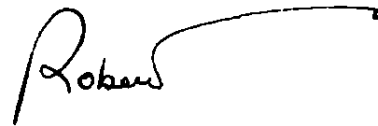
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RWD/vm

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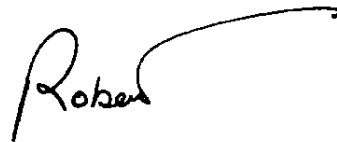
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